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Price List 1924-1925



BETTER *Tomato Seed.*

NOT WHAT IT
COSTS ———
WHAT IT DOES



H. P. LANGDON & SON
CONSTABLE, N. Y.

Choice Tomato Seed Growing.

D. N. Shoemaker

JAN 13 1925

For the man who is satisfied with seed if only it germinates well, and to whom tomatoes, early or late, are just "tomatoes", we probably have nothing of interest. Our work is for the gardener to whom earliness means real money, and productiveness of quality fruit something worth striving for.

Most men, nowadays, realize that heredity is too strong a force in the animal world to be ignored. A herd of scrub cows are always scrubs, no matter how much they are stuffed. There may be good ones in the lot, but their average will fall down when compared with that of cows bred for results.

Heredity is just as powerful a force in plant life, though this fact is not as generally realized. A field of tomatoes planted from unselected seed will grow "Chips off the old block" in spite of a whole summer's most anxious care, just as surely as scrub calves grow into scrub cows. Fruit is a little later ripening than you expect, perhaps, and the market gone, or they may be rough, or soft, or the yield low considering the care given it. You can't be sure of anything about it, except this; that the crop will not be as good as it would have been had the parents of those plants been selected, for generations back, for the qualities you most want. And it doesn't cost as much as "Blue Blood" in cows, either.

When we began growing the Earliana, twenty-one years ago, it had a great many faults. It was rough, often soft, cracked badly and was not a very heavy cropper. This was, however, the earliest market variety, and we selected it as a basis for breeding a strain for our own use as gardeners, for the Adirondack Hotel trade, which would be even earlier than before and with the usual faults of the Earliana bred out.

This selection was not as easy as would appear. The extra early hill was usually a shy bearer, and with too little foliage. An extra well fruited plant on light soil would probably produce a bumper crop of rough fruit on heavy rich soil. The smooth, globular type, on heavy soil, was likely to prove small under less favorable conditions.

Equally important was the solidity of the fruit. Thin cell walls are usually associated with soft fruit, so fruit of each plant in question must be cut to determine the thickness of cell wall, size of seed cells, lack of hard core and general color.

The hills that seemed nearest our ideal were staked, and the seed planted in separate plots the next summer. Naturally the plot showing the best type, (and the variation was surprising) had somewhat the best parent plant in ability to reproduce the desired qualities. By selecting the best hills in this plot we were not only choosing the best parent plants for the next season's breeding, but the best grandparents.

There is nothing mysterious or sensational about this. A definite ideal, first, based upon years of experience in growing and marketing tomatoes, and big enough to keep one from running off into side issues. Second, a very careful attention to details and a willingness to do all the work one's self in order to **know** that it is done right, and third, the patience to wait years for results.

We believe we have had really noteworthy results. It is not a perfect tomato, there is no such thing. Not all conditions are suited to growing Earliana. But where other strains of Earliana will do anything at all, and in many places where they utterly fail, our ADIRONDACK EARLIANA will give an EARLIER, BIGGER crop of LARGE, SMOOTH, FIRM fruit than any other strain.

Having been asked if this strain would stand heavy manuring, we can only say that we are unable to obtain such a quantity of manure up here, but one customer in Rhode Island uses so much that he grows fruit of our EARLIANA which his neighbors will not believe is Earliana, it is so large and smooth. He recently sent us a photograph of one hill which had 206 fruits on one vine.

But on the other hand one of our customers divided his plants with a neighbor who used a lot of horse manure besides a quantity of high grade nitrogenous fertilizer. The original lot grew smooth, well colored fruit, while the plants given the neighbor and manured with coarse horse manure grew rough fruit. Whether the different manure was the cause of different results in the crop, or whether it was produced by some check in plant growth or by

some other unknown cause we do not know. We are only giving you the fact as it came to our observation.

We do know that lack of proper hardening will severely retard ripening and greatly reduce the yield. On the other hand do not check them too severely or they get hide-bound and never fully recover.

Our location on the Northern foothills of the Adirondacks (four miles from the Canadian line) has been an important factor

in breeding for earliness. It is an established fact that plants tend to adapt themselves to their environment, that plants grown in warmer climates gradually decline in Earliness. Our summers average three and a half months free from frost, with generally cool days and many cold nights. Just about as extreme a climate as it is possible to grow tomatoes. In fact when we purchased land seven miles south toward the mountains, for breeding purposes, we found that even the earliest varieties could not be ripened on a commercial basis.

We are printing below a few unsolicited letters from various parts of the country, showing its unusual adaptability for an Earliana. We also thank these friends for their kindness and encouragement.

"Feb. 5-24—I purchased seed of you last year and had the finest and earliest tomatoes I ever raised. Find enclosed \$3.00 for one-half ounce of your Earliana. F. E. S., North Dakota."

"Dec. 26-23.—Your tomatoes I had last year were splendid especially your Earliana. Farmers would not believe me when I told them they were Earliana. C. S., New Jersey."

"Jan. 14-24,—Please forward by Parcel Post one-half pound each of your Grade No. 3 Earliana and Redhead. \$36.00. The S. G. Co., Ohio." (Their fourth annual order.)

"Jan. 1-24.—For \$3.00 enclosed please send me one-half ounce Grade No. 3 Earliana. I have always had a profitable crop with your seed, being first on the market, making tomatoes my best crop. M. T., Indiana."

Feb. 15-24.—Enclosed find check for \$5.00 for which send me one ounce Grade No. 3 Earliana tomato seed. I have been buying the same grade of seed from you for about twelve years. Have tried a good many different kinds since, but this is still the leader. G. E. T., Mass."

"Jan. 30-24.—I have tried your tomato seed during the past two seasons and have never seen any as good. Please send me four ounces of your best extra early Earliana by post. P. V., Mass."

"Jan. 25-24.—Enclosed find check for \$23.25, for which send us 4 ounces Grade No. 3 Earliana, 1 ounce No. 2 Earliana, 4 ounces Redhead. Your seed is still keeping up its reputation with us. D. N. P., Rhode Island." (Their 12th annual order.)

"Dec. 27-23.—Enclosed find P. O. order for \$27.00 for six oz. Langdon's Adirondack Earliana, No. 3. We had a wonderful crop of tomatoes from your seed the past season, picked as high as one-half bushel per plant and sold them for 16 2-3 per pound wholesale. L. W. P., Virginia." (Customer since 1913.)

"Jan. 5-24.—I enclose my check for \$58.50 for 13 ounces of your No. 3 Grade Earliana seed. Put it up in one ounce packages as some of it is for my neighbors who are interested. K. R., New Jersey." (The previous year must have been satisfactory, so he did some missionary work.)

"Jan. 21-24.—Here I am back again for some of your Earliana tomato seed. I can't get anything to beat it Every time I try anything else find yours superior and my customers are getting good with us. Your Earliana and Bonny Best are all that could be desired. L. H. B., New Hampshire."

"Mar. 15-24.—.....\$8.75 enclosed. As I wrote in my former letter I was not satisfied with.....nor did.....prove good with us. Your Earliana and Bonny Best are all that could be desired. L. H. B., New Hampshire."

"Jan. 2-24.—Enclosed find check for \$100.00 for 25 ounces of your Earliana, grade No. 3, from a satisfied customer of eight years. I require 3 ounces for my own use. A. G. B., Ontario." (Mr. B. also did some missionary work.)

"Jan. 2-24.—Find money order enclosed for \$7.25, 1 oz. grade No. 3 Earliana, 1-2 oz. Bonny Best Extra Selected, 1-2 oz. Jewel, Selected. We had tried your seed before and found great success with it. C. J. B., Ohio."

"Feb. 14-24.—Send me price of five ounces of your No. 3 Earliana. They have been doing fine the last two years. W. K. C., Pennsylvania."

"Dec. 26-23.—Enclosed find money order for \$10.00 for two ounces grade No. 3 Earliana. Your seed produced the most favorable results the past year, and we are using no other strain of Earliana this year. J. A. D., Ontario."

"Jan. 17-24.—I wish it was possible to get as good seed of other vegetables as of tomatoes from you. A. C. G., Vermont."

"Feb. 15-24.—Kindly send the following, 3 oz. No. 2 Earliana, 1 oz. Redhad, 1 oz. Red Rock, 1 oz. No. 3 Earliana, for \$11.25 enclosed. Your strains seem to be the most used and best Earliana grown around here. C. H. H., Ontario."

We might add many more along the same line, but space forbids. The best recommendation of our seed is the fact that hundreds of our customers come back. YEAR AFTER YEAR for our EARLIANA seed at our price, which cannot be lower and have enough to supply the demand or enable us to give it the care with which it is now harvested.

PRICE OF LANGDON'S 19 YEAR SELECTION AND LINE BRED NORTHERN ADIRONDACK EARLIANA TOMATO SEED.

Grade No. 1— $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 25c; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 40c; 1 oz. 60c; 2 ozs. \$1.20; 4 ozs. \$2.00; 8 ozs. \$3.60; 1 pound \$6.40. Supply limited.

Grade No. 2—Seed from Crown and Selected Fruit: $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 50c; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 75c. Supply limited. Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ pound \$1.25 per oz.; $\frac{1}{2}$ pound \$9.50; one pound, \$18.00.

Grade No. 3—Seed from our breeding fields. Best Private Stock, just such as we sow, supply limited: $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. \$1.00; $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. \$2.00; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. \$3.00; 1 oz. \$5.00; 4 ozs. \$18.00. No discount for less than four ounces.

This grade is from Breeding Fields, carefully selected for earliness and vigor in the parent plant and size, shape and smoothness of fruit, which is then cut and all fruit rejected that does not come up to the standard in solidity and small seed cavities. Can be supplied only when in stock; and seed of this grade cannot be bought elsewhere, for the cutting and sorting is not left to the judgment of hired help. It is done personally by the members of the firm themselves, who give you the results of their years of experience in this line.

We believe we are the only growers in the country, or the world, for that matter, of whom you can buy an extra choice grade of tomato seed selected by themselves in the same particular manner as this Grade No. 3 Adirondack Earliana.

LATER VARIETIES.

	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 oz.	2 oz.	4 oz.	8 oz.
BONNY BEST, extra selected.	1.00	1.50	2.50	4.50	8.00	14.00
BONNY BEST, Langdon strain (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
REDHEAD (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
STONE (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
JEWEL (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
BAER (selected) .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00
RED ROCK .....	.50	.75	1.25	2.25	4.00	7.00

REDHEAD, THE BEST SECOND EARLY.

Although this variety has been introduced but a few years, the demand exceeds that of any other variety, except the Adirondack Earliana. It is early, vines vigorous and productive, fruit large, well colored, firm and of good shape.

BONNY BEST. (Langdon Strain.)

Two grades, selected and extra selected. Having had a demand for an EXTRA SELECTED grade of our own strain of Bonny Best, corresponding to our Extra Selected Earliana, we have secured a limited quantity of seed of this grade from crown and second cluster fruit grown on the most vigorous, prolific plants. This selection is done by the members of the firm themselves. There can be none better. The selected grade Bonny Best, as with the other varieties, is secured from medium to large, smooth fruits grown on good hills, discarding all small, immature or rough fruits.

From reports received from our customers and from our own experience we believe our strain of Bonny Best to be considerable earlier than ordinary commercial strains, on account of having been grown in the extreme north for so many years.

BAER, JEWEL AND STONE.

These are the standard second earlies which need no description, the variety best suited to you depending largely upon your market, location and soil. We have selected grades of these and our strains are as good as the best, besides being grown in the north.

RED ROCK.

Is a large, late variety, which we consider one of the best for late main crop. Very hard and a long keeper.

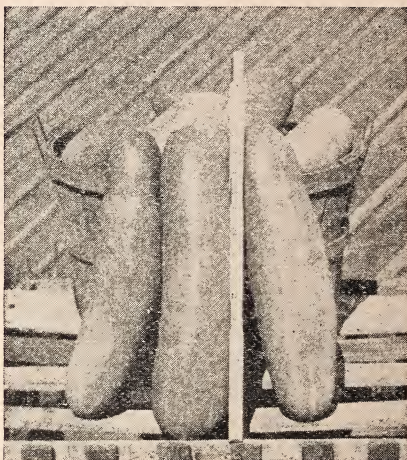
This is not a large list of varieties, but they are all good. We prefer growing a few of the very best kinds, lessening the possibility of crossing or of mistakes, and keeping each to it's own particular type, rather than to spread over a larger list for the benefit of a few who might want them.

We have a good many inquiries about the Earliana and Bonny Best for forcing. Although we have no personal experience with them in this line they are quite extensively used, and, judging by the recommends and repeated orders, are very satisfactory. We'd advise giving them a trial.

MIMMS CUCUMBER

If you grow cukes here is one we can highly recommend. Secured from selected fruit grown from pedigree stock of many years selection by us. It is a fine table variety, early for so large fruit, ripening white and of very thick flesh and few seeds, fine for sweet pickles. We know of nothing better.

One customer writes:—"I regret very much that you have no seed of Mimms cucumber to offer. As I am quite a grower of cucumbers I tried this one



last year as it was a new one to me. The cucumbers were certainly fine, being fully equal or superior to 'Davis' which has always been my standby.—W. N. P., Conn."

Twelve of the best fruits filled this bushel basket full..

Price— $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 20 cts; 1 oz. 35 cts; 4 oz. \$1.20; 8 ozs. \$2.00; 1 pound \$3.20.

"HARRIS EARLIEST" SWEET PEPPER.

A very early, medium sized and very prolific pepper, which is to peppers what our Earliana is to tomatoes in earliness, very mild and sweet. No pepper is earlier.

Price— $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. 40 cts; $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. 60 cts.; 1 oz. \$1.00.

Please order early before the rush comes, write your NAME PLAINLY, NAMING SECOND CHOICE IF ANY, and do not send postage stamps except for amounts less than \$1.00. 1c. or 2c. stamps preferred. We try to fill all orders by first mail. IF NOT PROMPTLY RECEIVED, NOTIFY US.

Yours for the best in the business,

H. P. LANGDON & SON,

December, 1924.

CONSTABLE, N. Y.